be desirable to wait and see what reforms were introduced there and to adopt such of them as might be suited to local conditions and requirements.

*Reply.*—The excise system which was tentatively introduced in the Trivandrum Division in 1073 was extended to the Southern Division in 1076 and to the Quilon Division from the beginning of the current Malabar year. This system has been on the whole found to be an improvement upon the old monopoly or farming system. It has been at all events a success so far. It is doubtful whether Government can go back to the old system in these Divisions. The action taken on the report of the Excise Commission may be awaited, as suggested by Mr. Swamy Iyengar, and such reforms afterwards introduced as might seem necessary.

**151. Mitigation of coin difficulty.**

*Mr. Varkey Oothuppu* (*Ettumanur*) observed that currency difficulties arose on account of the remissness of the mint and treasury officers of the State. He prayed that some measures might be introduced for putting a stop to, or at least alleviating, all future difficulties in this direction.

*Reply.*—Orders have been recently issued in the matter. The difficulty complained of will be dealt with when it arises. Fortunately, there is no difficulty of the kind now.

**152. Proper distribution of budget allotments among the various divisions and taluks.**

*Mr. K. Karunakaran Pillai* (*Parur*) represented that though various public works had to be urgently executed in the Kottayam Division and the necessity for allotting funds for the same had been brought to the notice of Government at the last session of the Assembly, nothing had been done hitherto in that direction. He prayed for an equitable distribution of the budget allotment of the State among the different divisions and taluks according to their needs and circumstances.

*Reply.*—This has been already replied to. (*Vide* subject No. 127).

**153. Appointment of a Commission composed of official and non-official members for economising State expenditure.**

*Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum* (*Nominated*) said that

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he only threw out this suggestion for what it might be worth and left it to the Government to decide what should be done in the circumstances.

*Reply.*—This does not fall within the province of the Popular Assembly, nor is there any necessity for the appointment of a commission of the kind suggested by the member.

**154. Will the Dewan or the Financial Secretary explain whether in view of the excess of the State expenditure over receipts any steps have been taken to regulate the expenditure?**

*Mr. M. Narayana Panicker* (*Ampalapuzha*), *Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaran and Mr. Narayanan Velayudhan* (*Pathanapuram*), *Mr. Padmanabha Pillai* (*Karunagapalli*) *and Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai B. A., B. L.,* (*Nayar Samajam, Quilon*), brought forward this question.

*Reply.*—This question cannot be allowed.

**155. Regulation of State expenditure by discussion in the Legislative Council.**

*Mr. M. Narayana Panicker,* (*Ampalapuzha*) suggested the desirability of discussing the measures to be adopted for the regulation of State expenditure in the Legislative Council.

*Reply.*—This will be considered when the existing rules for the conduct of business in the Legislative Council are revised.

## VI. Sanitation and Vital Statistics.

**156. Compulsory registration of vital statistics and the maintenance of vital statistics registers certified by the principal member of each village.**

*Mr. V. A. Ramakrishna Iyer, B. A., B. L.,* (*T. I. C., Trivandrum*) said that the correct registration of births and deaths was indispensable for gauging the public health of towns and for knowing the effect of the various sanitary measures introduced. The cry all over was that this department was not properly administered and that the figures supplied were very inaccurate. Year after year Government had occasion to criticize the working of the present system and the member thought it would be impossible to have a correct list of births and deaths, so long as the people were not legally bound to supply information to the officers concerned. The President of the Town Improvement Committee of Trivandrum as well as the Sanitary Com-

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